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Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.11(e)  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group: 3763

AP/3763  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*In re* Patent Application of:

William G. DENNIS

Serial No.: 09/885,856

Confirmation No.: 3188

Filed: June 20, 2001

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(2037840-0001)

Group Art Unit: 3763

Examiner: HAYES, Michael J.

For: **SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SEAL ASSEMBLY**

Mail Stop: AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated April 21, 2004 (Paper No./Mail Date 20040414) ("Office Action"), Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following Amendments and Remarks.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION** begin on page 2.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS** begin on page 3.

**REMARKS** begin on page 6.

**CONCLUSION** begins on page 14.

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